

# WHAT THE BIBLE IS ABOUT

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## Session 8

### THE BOOK OF REVELATION 3. The Things Which Shall Be

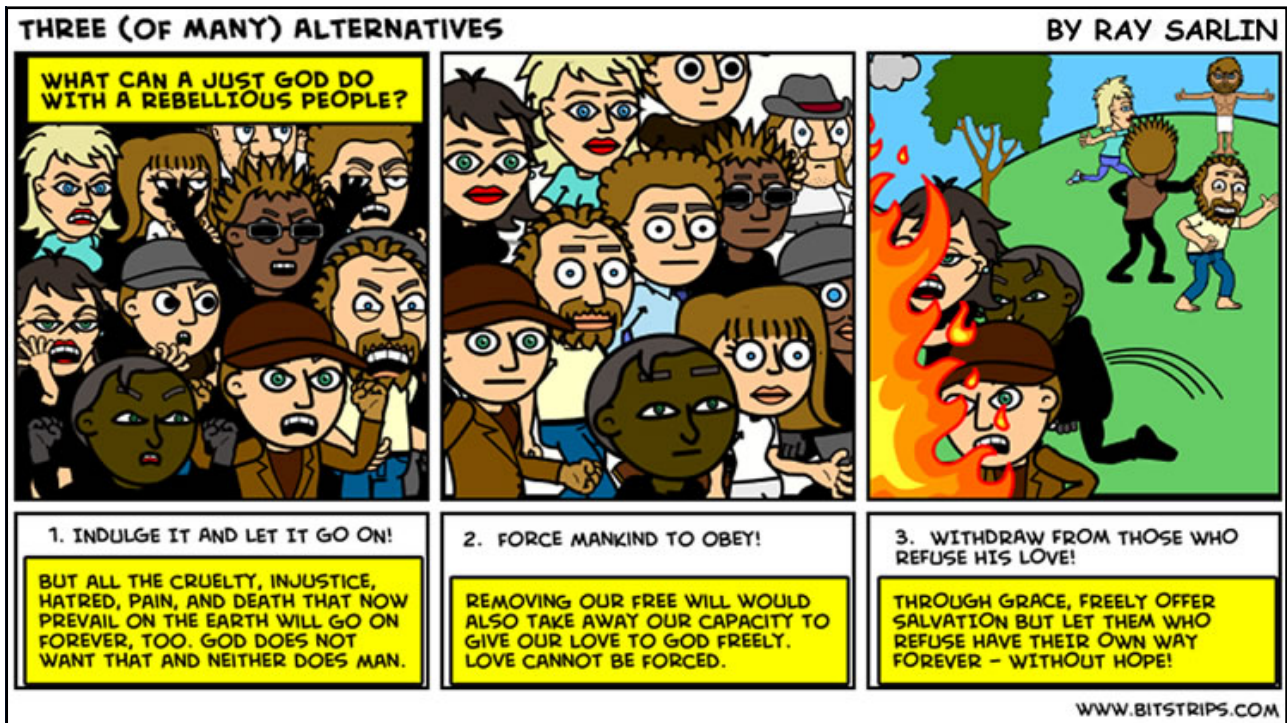
## A Unique Promise

“Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.”

(Revelation 1:3)

Blessed (μακάριος, *makarios*)-hallowed, consecrated, approved, made happy or prosperous





## Key Points

The book of Revelation is in code

Every code is explained in Scripture

Virtually every book in the Bible is required to interpret the code.

## Interpreting the book of Revelation

**God means what He says and says what He means.**

**The Bible is an integrated whole: Every detail is there by design.**

(Matthew 5:17,18)

**Nothing is trivial: all things are for our learning.**

(Romans 15:4)

**Use the Bible to interpret the Bible.**

## Revelation's **Big Ideas**

Satan's fight against God is futile.

Heaven's reality will triumph over this earthly existence.

Catastrophe and great distress will precede Christ's return.

Salvation is available to everyone who repents and follows Christ.

Christians can evaluate the present in light of prophesied future events.

At the end of this age, God will dwell with His people in the New Jerusalem and all the benefits lost at Eden will be restored.

**GOD REIGNS**

# What starts in Genesis finishes in Revelation



## “He (Holy Spirit) Shall Glorify Me” (John 16:14)

<b>Old Testament</b>	Christ in <b>Prophecy</b>	“Behold, He Comes!”
<b>Gospels</b>	Christ in <b>History</b>	“Behold, He Dies!”
<b>Acts</b>	Christ in the <b>Church</b>	“Behold, He Saves!”
<b>Epistles</b>	Christ in <b>Experience</b>	“Behold, He Lives!”
<b>Apocalypse</b>	Christ in <b>coming Glory</b>	“Behold, He Reigns!”

When Jesus cries, “It is finished,” He is closing out the Levitical requirements of the Torah.

## The Divine Outline of the book of Revelation

<sup>19</sup>Write the things which thou hast seen,

and the things which are,

and the things which shall be hereafter,

(Revelation 1:19)

## The Divine Outline of the book of Revelation

<sup>19</sup>Write the things which thou hast seen,

**The Vision of Christ** ..... Chapter 1

and the things which are,

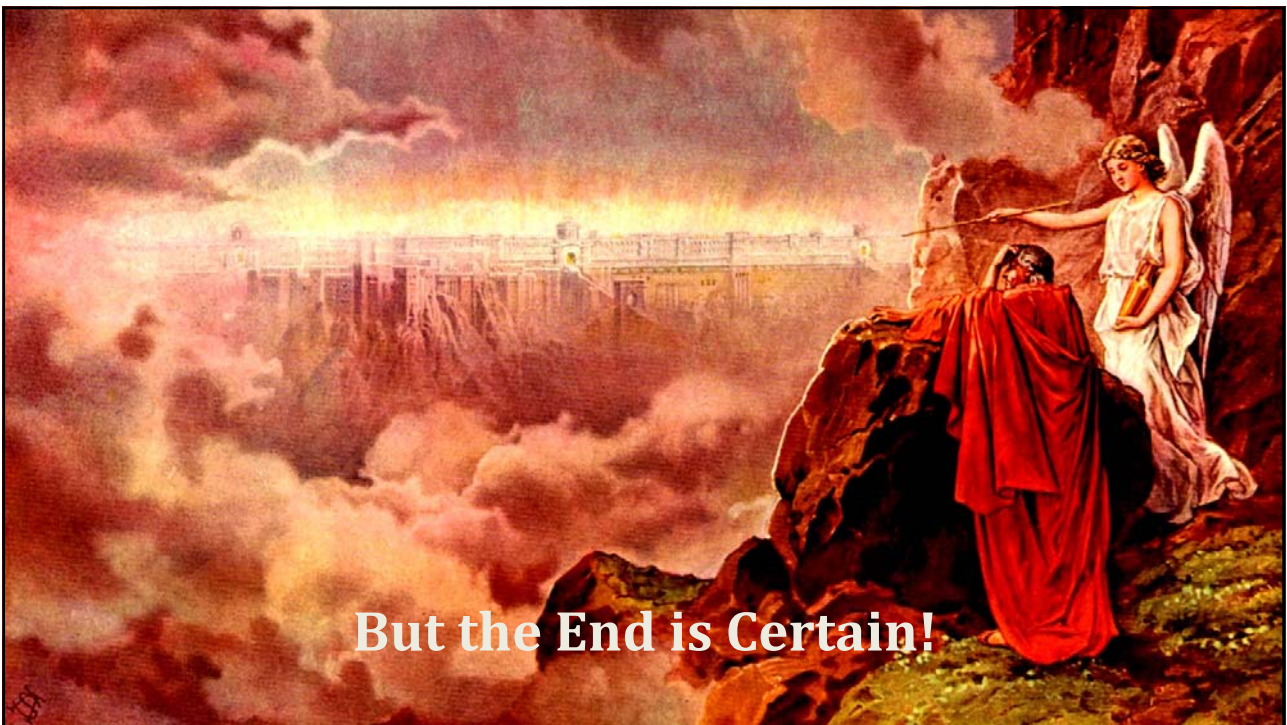
**The Seven Churches** ..... Chapters 2,3

and the things which shall be hereafter,

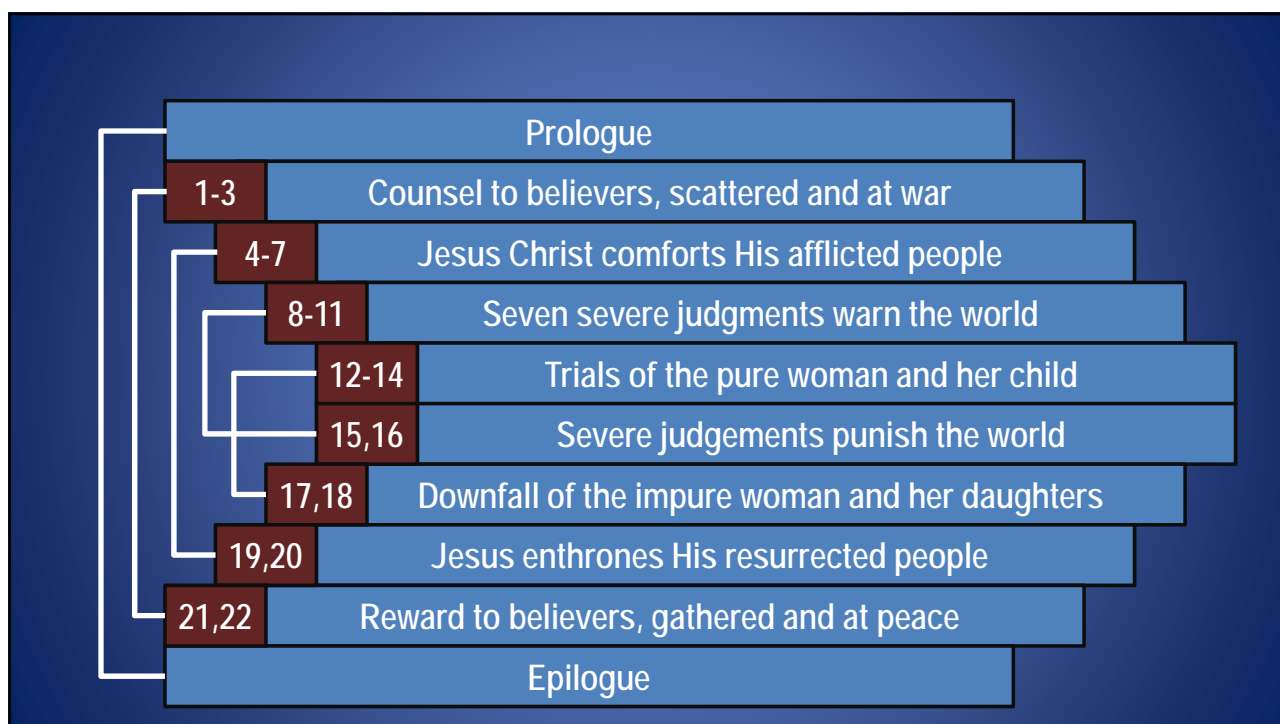
**What follows after the Churches** .. Chapters 4-22

(Revelation 1:19)





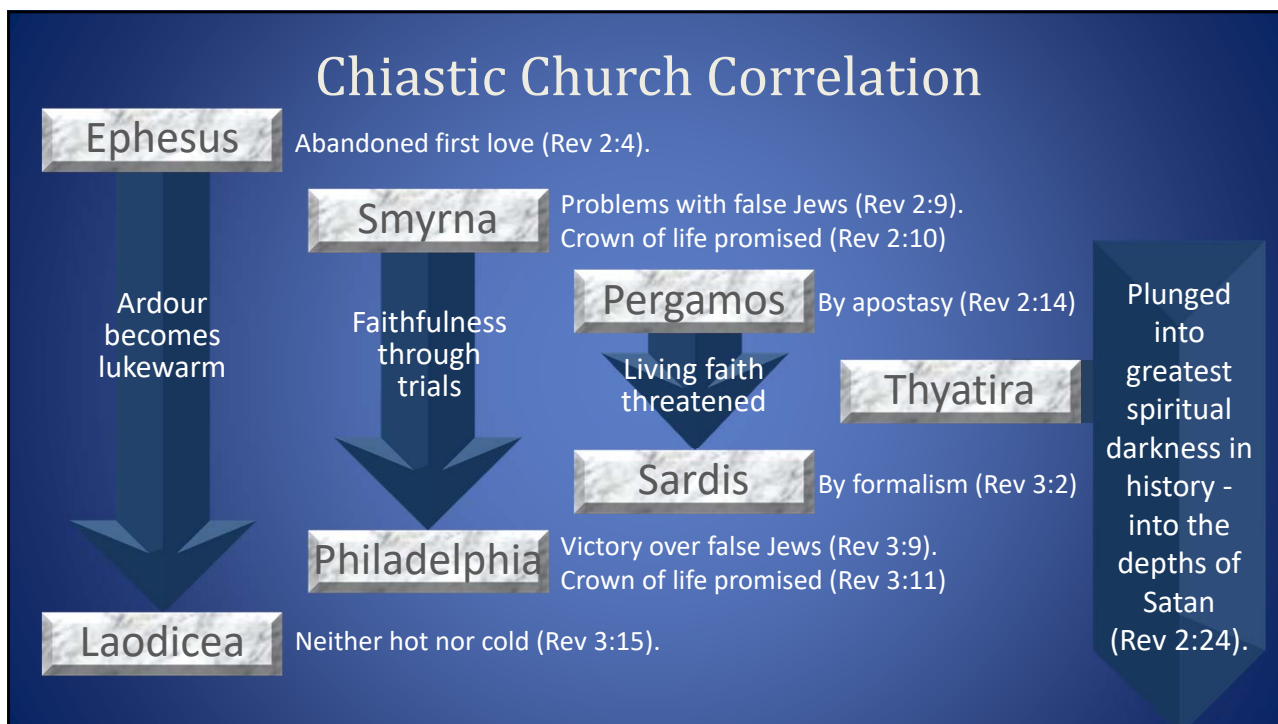
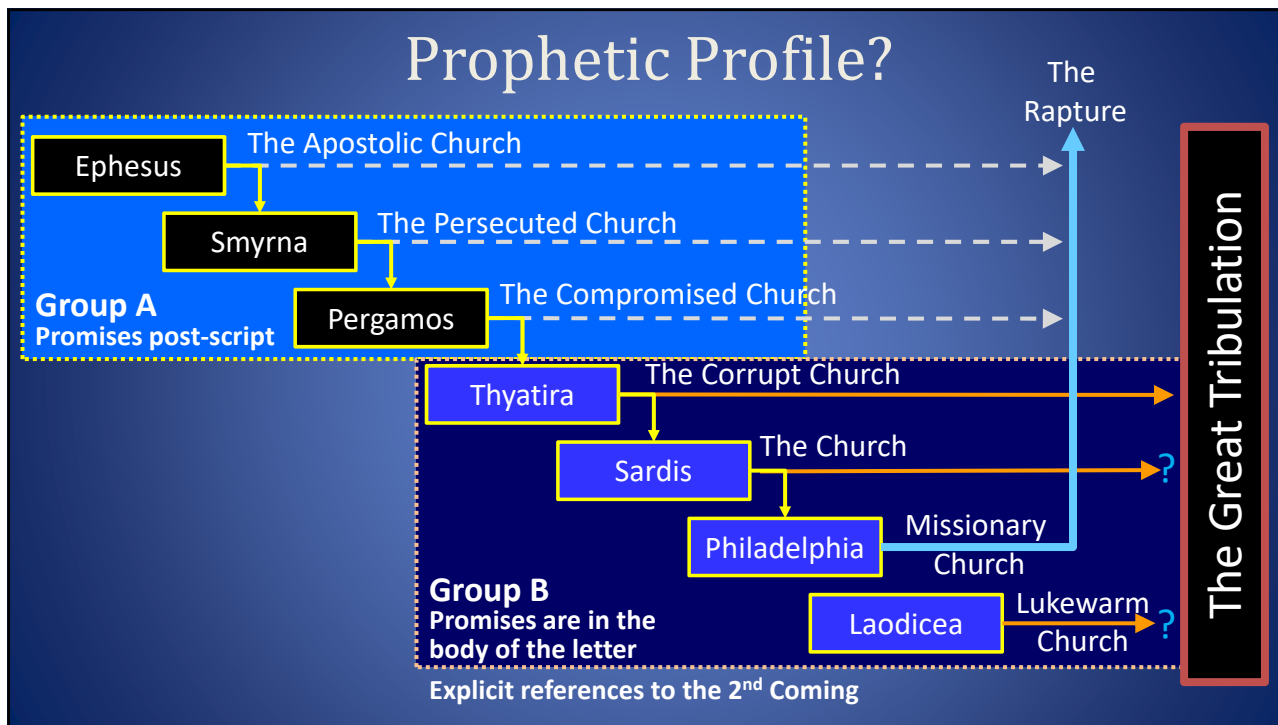






### Overview of Design

	<i>Ephesus</i>	<i>Smyrna</i>	<i>Pergamos</i>	<i>Thyatira</i>	<i>Sardis</i>	<i>Philadelphia</i>	<i>Laodicea</i>
Name	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Title	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Commendation	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	-
Concern	✓	-	✓	✓	✓	-	✓
Exhortation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Promise (in text)				✓	✓	✓	✓
Appeal	"He that hath an ear, hear what the Spirit says to the Churches"						
Promise (post-script)	✓	✓	✓				



## Expectation

● <b>Ephesus</b>	Early church	Return
● <b>Smyrna</b>	Persecuted church	Remain
● <b>Pergamos</b>	Married church	Reclaim
● <b>Thyatira</b>	Corrupt church	Remove
● <b>Sardis</b>	Dead church	Reborn
● <b>Philadelphia</b>	Obedient church	Reward
● <b>Laodicea</b>	Lukewarm church	Repent

## Promises to the Overcomer

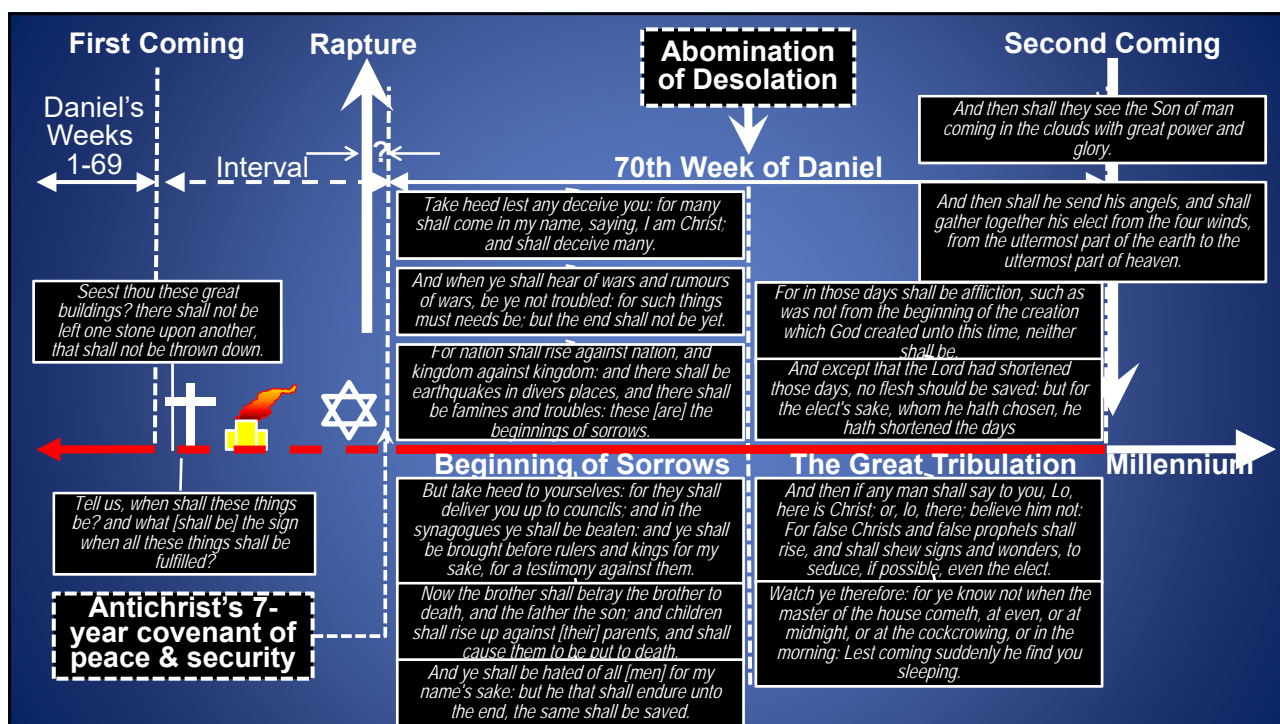
● <b>Ephesus</b>	Eat of the Tree of Life
● <b>Smyrna</b>	Not hurt of second death
● <b>Pergamos</b>	Manna, Stone, Name.
● <b>Thyatira</b>	Power over nations.
● <b>Sardis</b>	Walk with Him in white; name not blotted out.
● <b>Philadelphia</b>	Pillar in Temple, name of God, name of His city, new name.
● <b>Laodicea</b>	Sit with Him on His throne.

## Each Letter Applies to All Churches

- **Ephesus**  
(“Desired One” or “Darling”) ➤ Devotion, not just doctrine
- **Smyrna**  
(“Myrrh”, “Suffering” or “Death”) ➤ Endure persecution
- **Pergamos**  
(“Mixed marriage” or “Serpent”) ➤ Stand fast against the world
- **Thyatira**  
(“Semiramis” or “Daughter”) ➤ Abandon pagan practices
- **Sardis**  
(“Red Stone” or “Remnant”) ➤ Watchfulness, diligence
- **Philadelphia**  
(“Brotherly love”, “Church of Love”) ➤ Missionary outreach
- **Laodicea**  
(“Rule of the people”, Lukewarm”) ➤ Prosperous compromise

## Each Letter Applies to Each of Us Personally

- **Ephesus**  
(“Desired One” or “Darling”) ➤ Neglected priorities; stay in the Word
- **Smyrna**  
(“Myrrh”, “Suffering” or “Death”) ➤ Satanic opposition
- **Pergamos**  
(“Mixed marriage” or “Serpent”) ➤ Worldly compromise
- **Thyatira**  
(“Semiramis” or “Daughter”) ➤ Flee pagan practices; stay in the Word
- **Sardis**  
(“Red Stone” or “Remnant”) ➤ Watchfulness, diligence
- **Philadelphia**  
(“Brotherly love”, “Church of Love”) ➤ Loyal Ambassadorship
- **Laodicea**  
(“Rule of the people”, Lukewarm”) ➤ Repent and be committed to Jesus

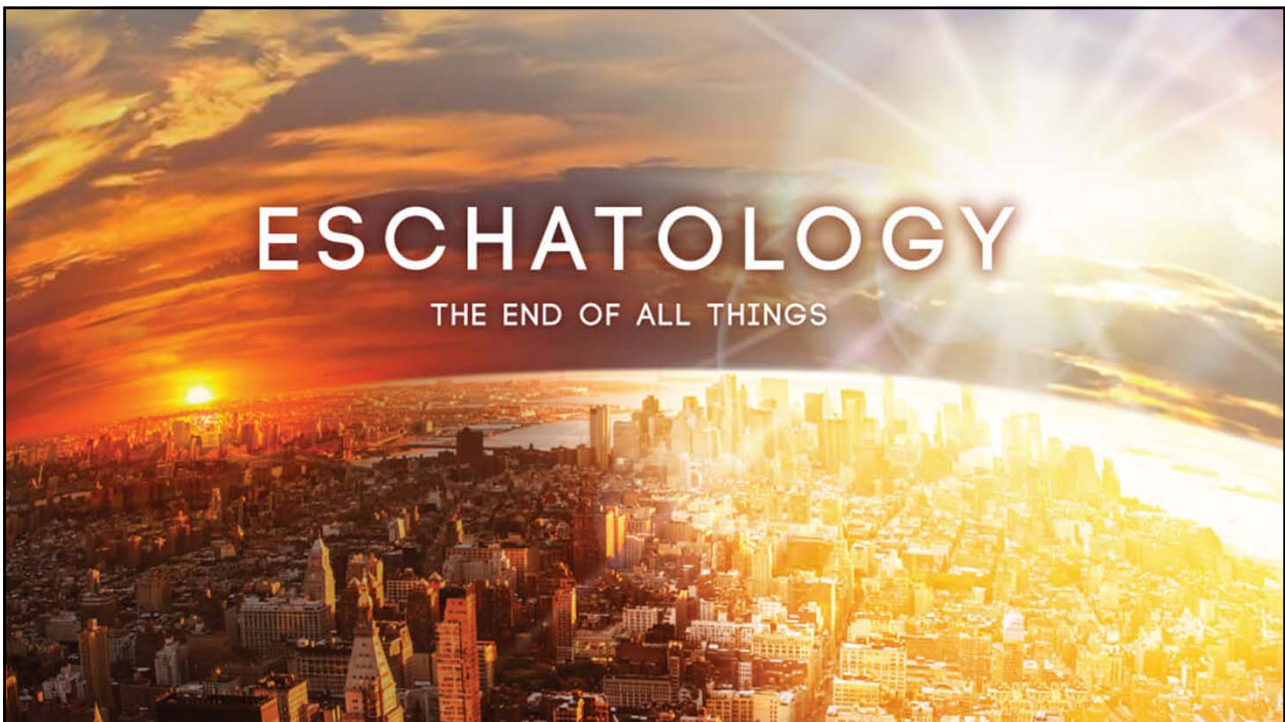


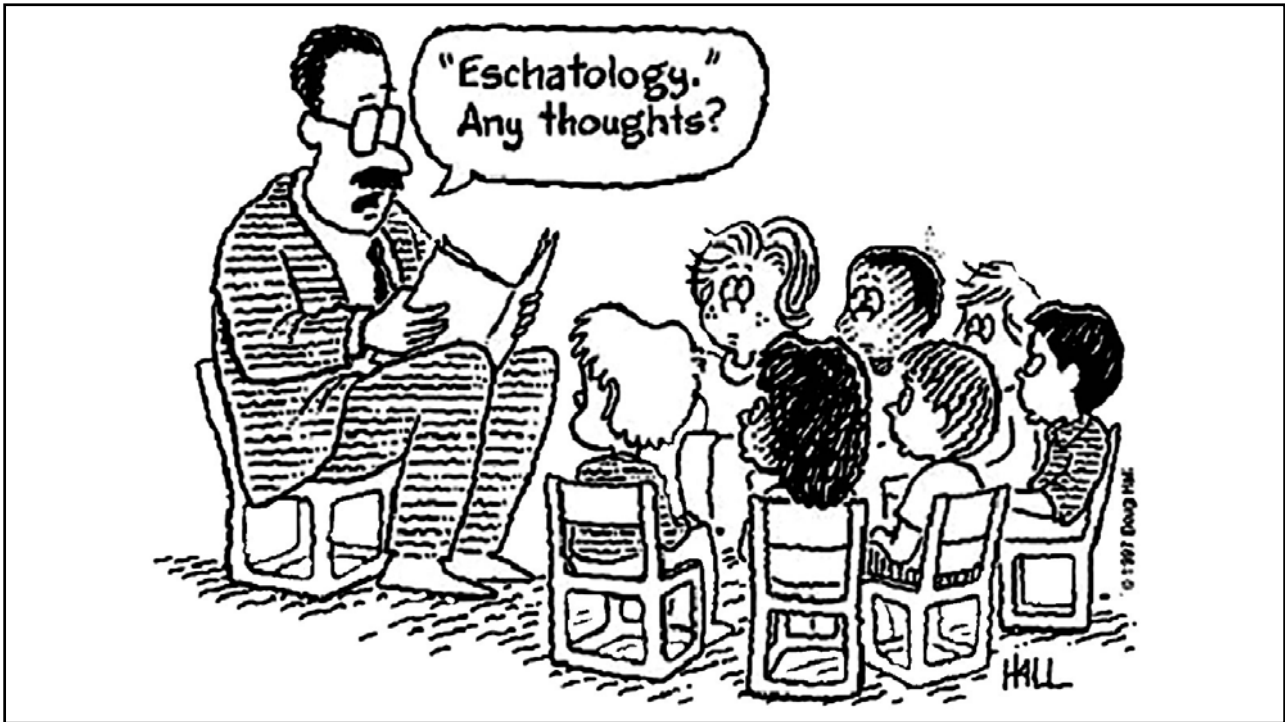
## The Seven Kingdom Parables (Revelation 2&3 vs Matthew 13)

- **Ephesus**  
("Desired One" or "Darling")
  - **Smyrna**  
("Myrrh", "Suffering" or "Death")
  - **Pergamos**  
("Mixed marriage" or "Serpent")
  - **Thyatira**  
("Semiramis" or "Daughter")
  - **Sardis**  
("Red Stone" or "Remnant")
  - **Philadelphia**  
("Brotherly love", "Church of Love")
  - **Laodicea**  
("Rule of the people", "Lukewarm")
- **The Sower and the Four Soils**  
Matthew 13:3-9
  - **The Tares and the Wheat**  
Matthew 13:24-30
  - **The Mustard Seed**  
Matthew 13:31-32
  - **The Woman and the Leaven**  
Matthew 13:33
  - **The Treasure in the Field**  
Matthew 13:44
  - **The Pearl of Great Price**  
Matthew 13:45-46
  - **The Dragnet**  
Matthew 13:46-50

## Paul's Epistles

- **Ephesus**  
("Desired One" or "Darling")
  - **Smyrna**  
("Myrrh", "Suffering" or "Death")
  - **Pergamos**  
("Mixed marriage" or "Serpent")
  - **Thyatira**  
("Semiramis" or "Daughter")
  - **Sardis**  
("Red Stone" or "Remnant")
  - **Philadelphia**  
("Brotherly love", "Church of Love")
  - **Laodicea**  
("Rule of the people", "Lukewarm")
- Ephesians
  - Philippians (joy through suffering)
  - Corinthians (marriage to the world)
  - Galatians (religious externalism)
  - Romans (Paul's definitive doctrine)
  - Thessalonians (the raptured Church);
  - Colossians (A few km away, instructed to trade letters with Laodicea; Greek phrases unique to these letters)



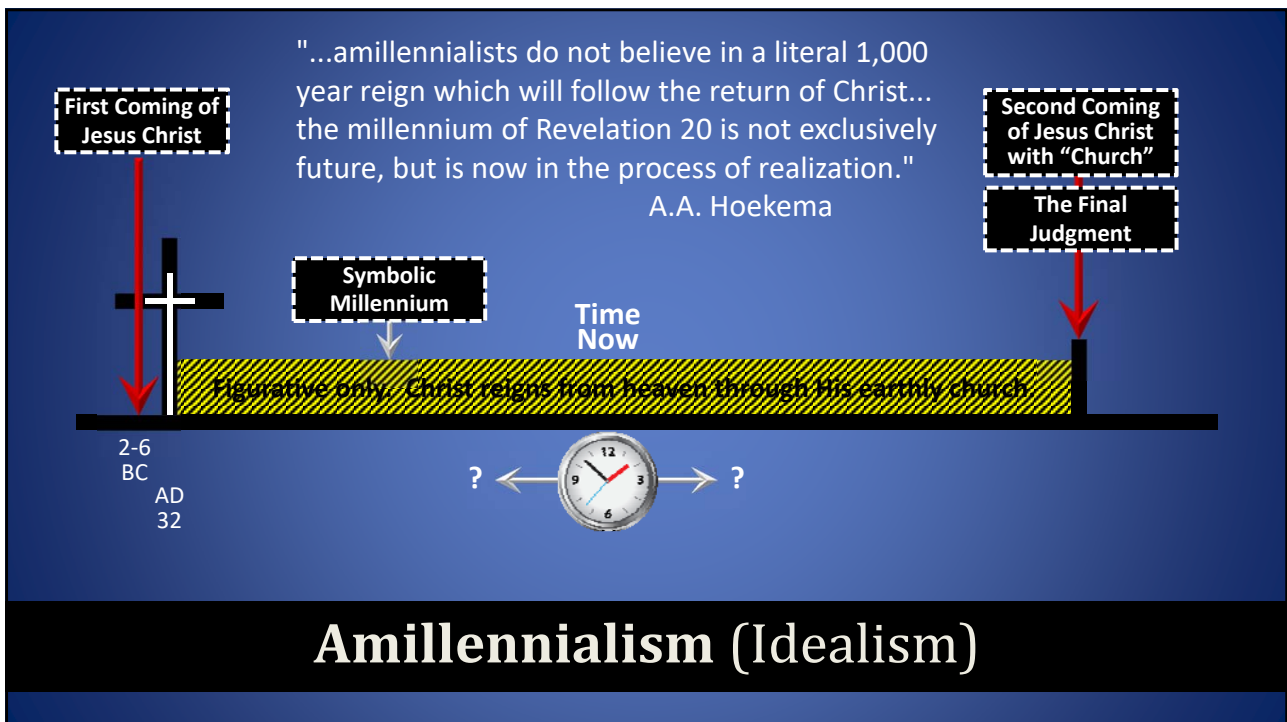
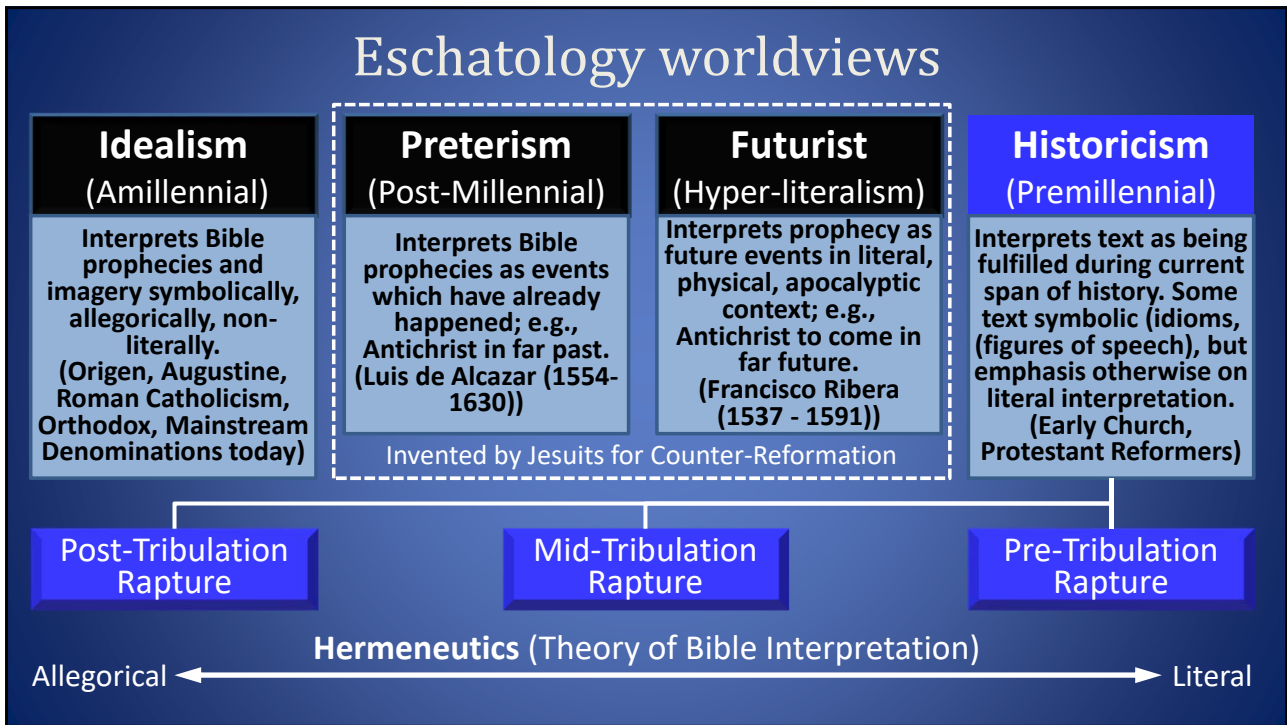


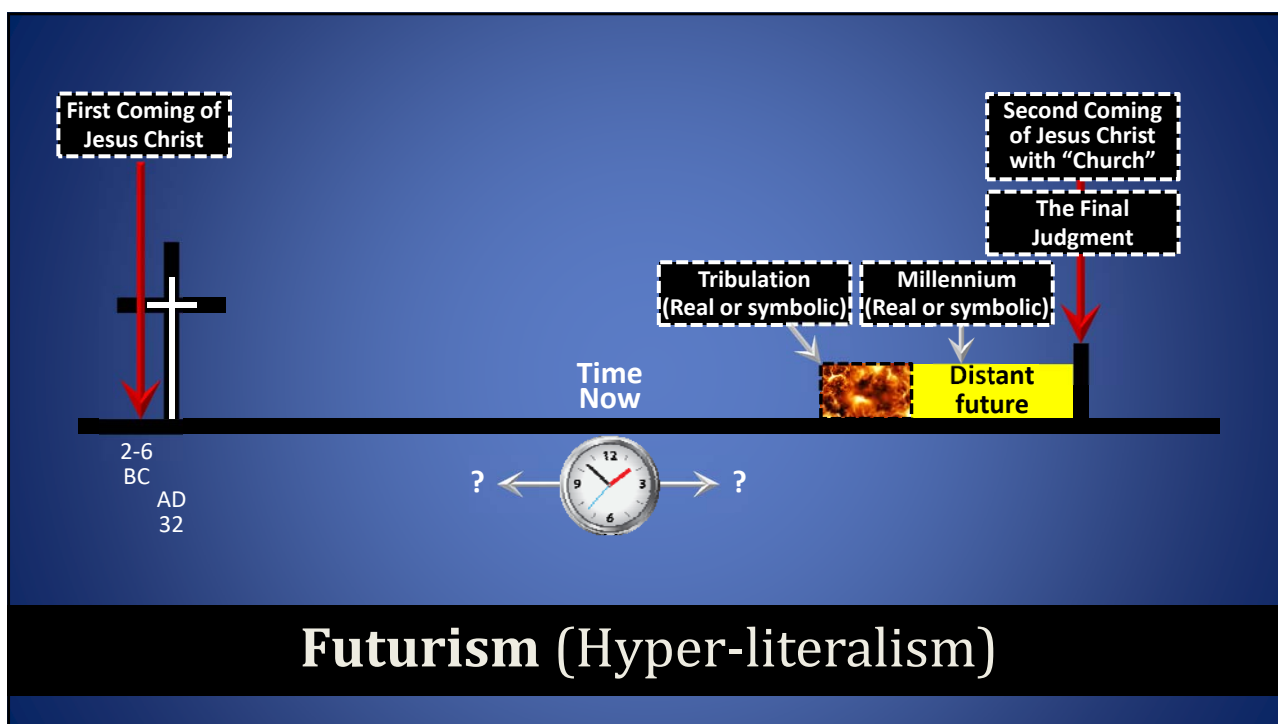
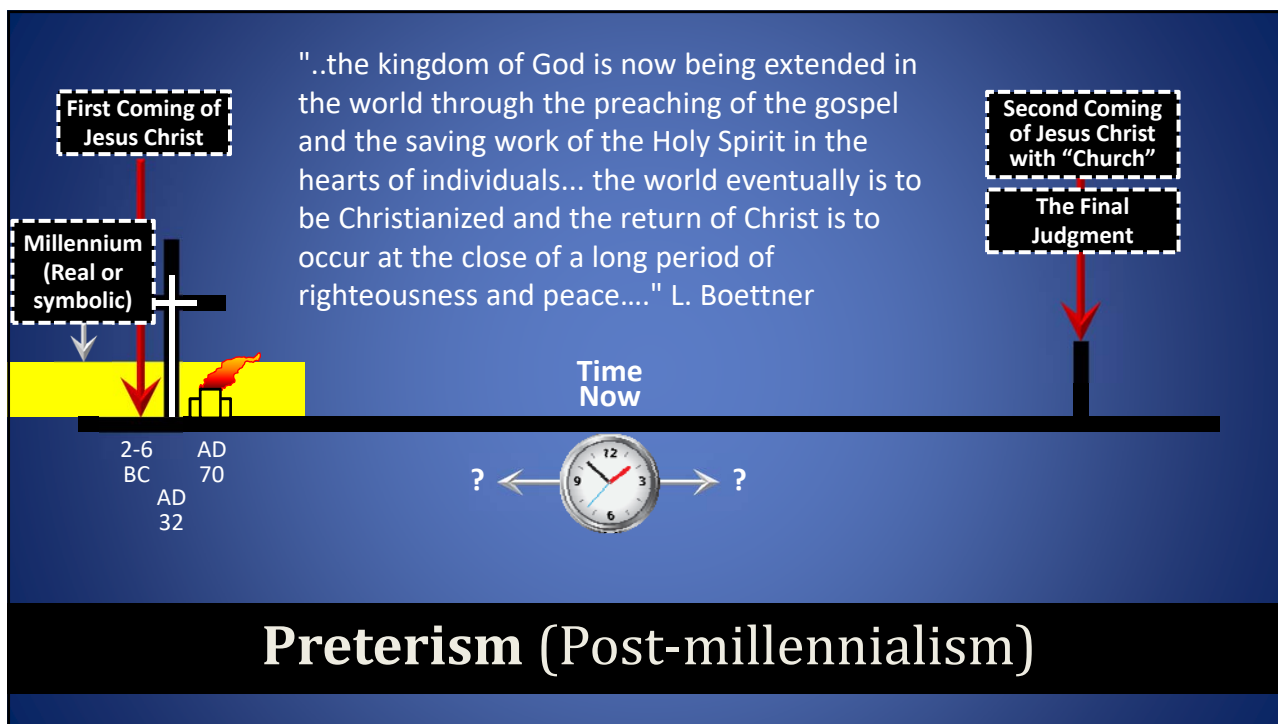
# eschatology

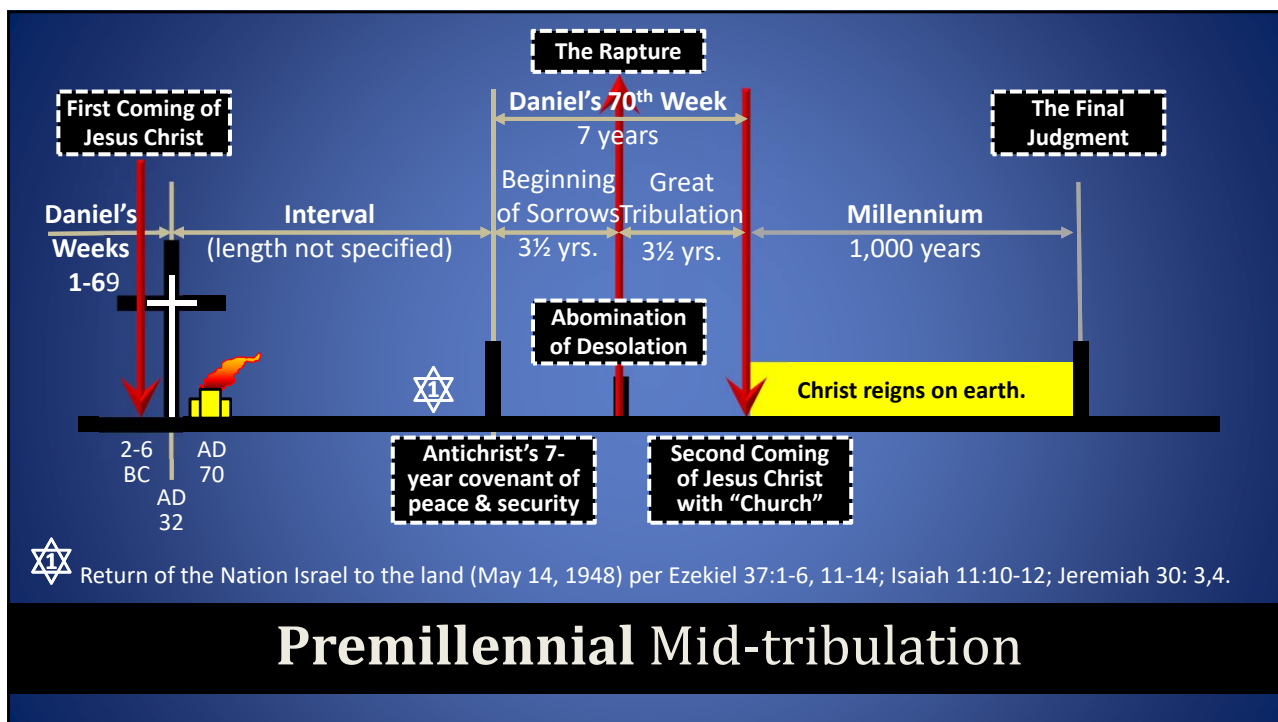
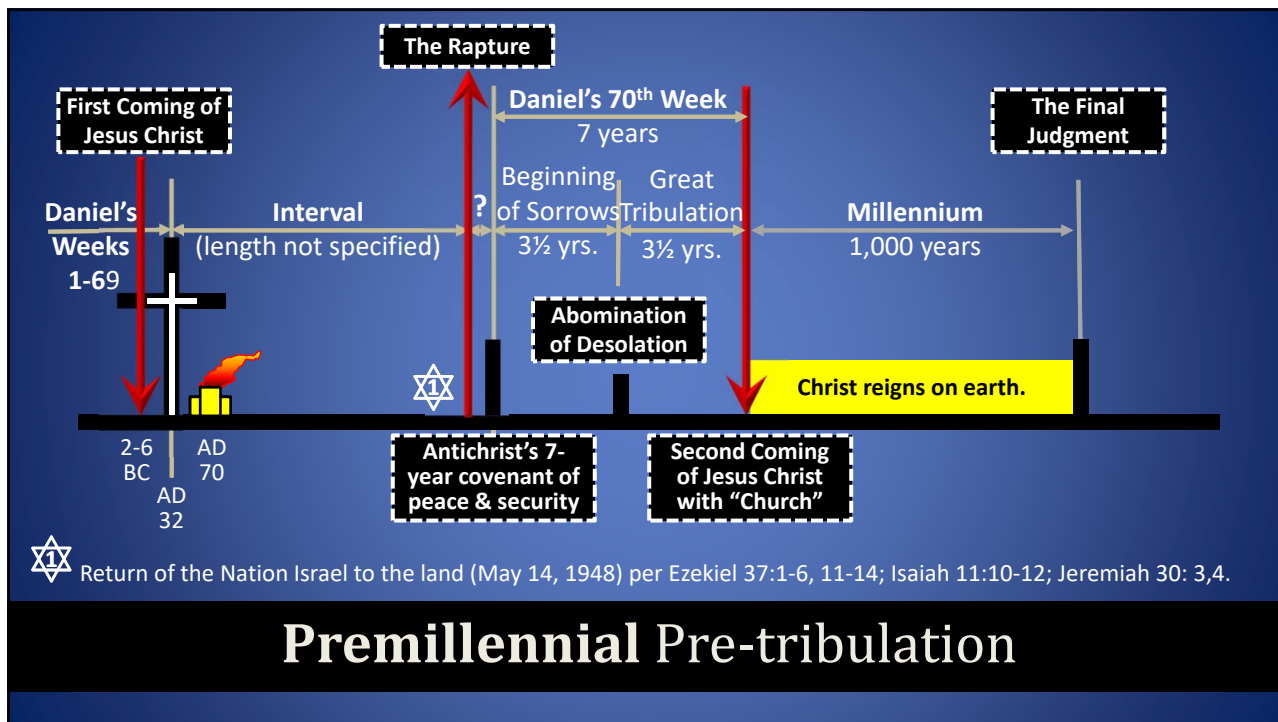
**noun.** [ess-cat-[tol]-a-jee].

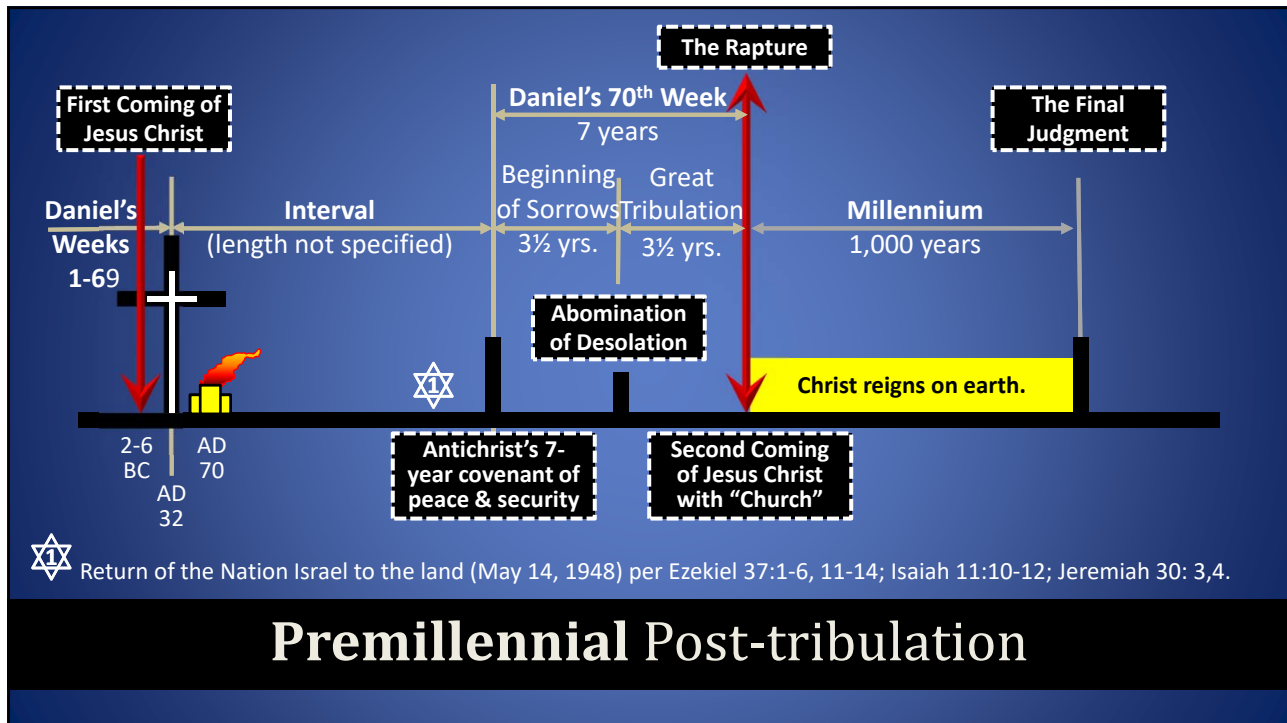
1. The branch of theology that is concerned with the end of the world or of humankind.
2. The study of last things.











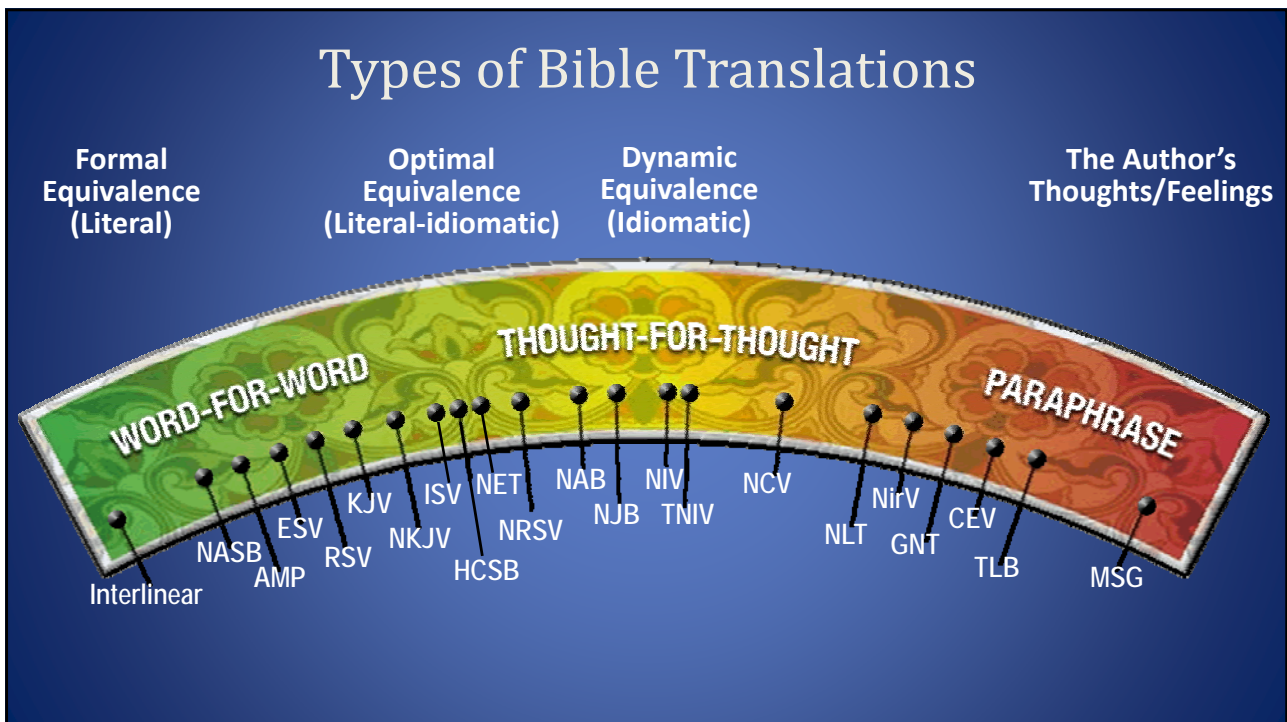
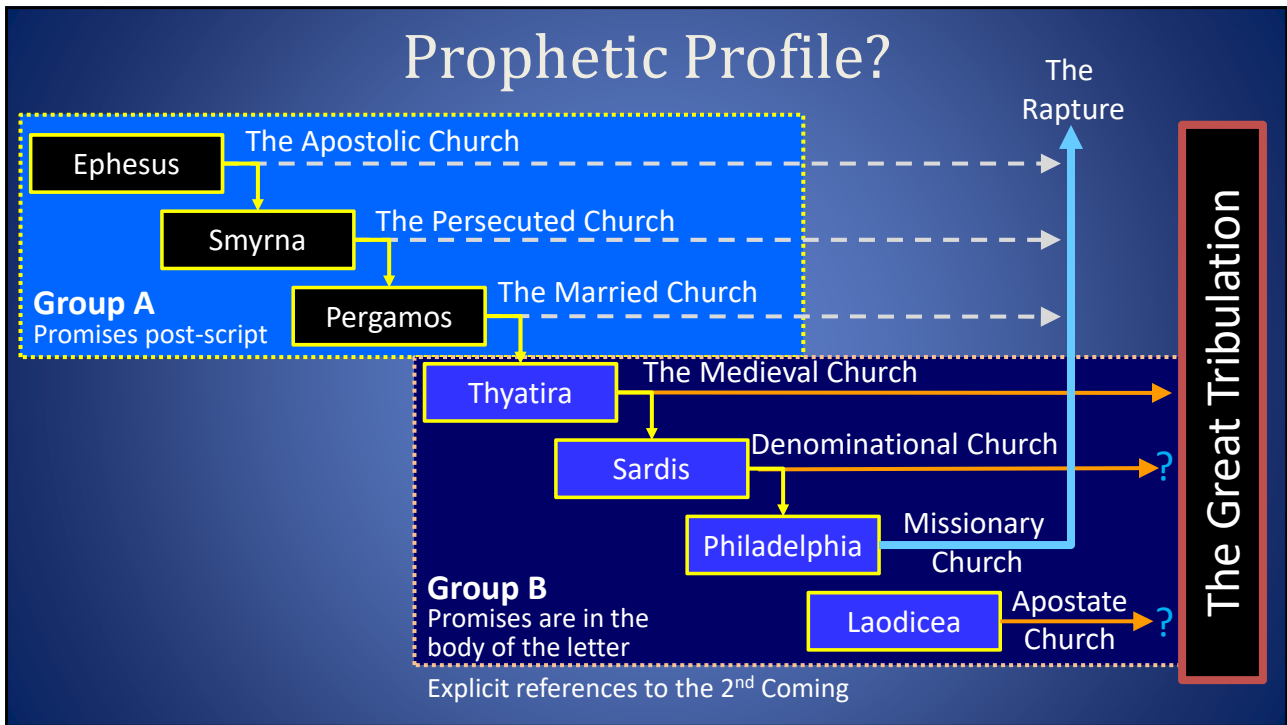
All positions agree that:

1. Jesus Christ was crucified per Scriptures, buried, and rose again the 3<sup>rd</sup> day per the Scriptures (*see 1 Corinthians 15:3-4*),
2. The Bible is the word of God, fully inspired and authoritative (*see 2 Timothy 3:16*), and
3. There was a first advent and there will be a personal, visible, glorious, and objective second advent.

## Some major differences

	Amillennial	Postmillennial	Futurist	Premillennial
Hermeneutics of the book of Revelation	Progressive parallelism in Revelation (earth's history repeated 7 times). Context determines whether literal or figurative.	Interpret in terms of meaning to 1st century church-reassures Christ will prevail over Roman persecutors. Liberal hermeneutic.	Revelation 4-22 and parts of Daniel are future events in a literal, physical, global, apocalyptic context.	Read Revelation as written, literally where possible. Context determines whether literal or figurative.
The Millennium	Figurative (symbolic) only. Has to do with the "church age" between Christ's First and Second coming, in which Christ rules from heaven. We are in its last days.	Tribulation over. We are in a figurative "golden age" on earth where nations gradually adopt Christendom until the earth is filled with the glory of the Lord.	Whether literal or figurative, the tribulation will happen in the future under a future Jewish supernatural figure (not the pope).	A literal 1,000 year reign of Christ on earth as spoken of throughout the Bible, after the Tribulation (yet to occur) and before the End of All Things.
Israel and the "Church"	Old Testament Israel is the nation. New Testament Israel is the "Church"; Israel no longer has any spiritual significance.		Futurists exclude Jews from the New Covenant and remove salvation through faith from Jews.	Israel and "Church" are separate entities with separate destinies in God's plan. Israel remains God's chosen.
Satan	Satan was bound at the Cross and is no longer able to deceive the nations.			Satan is real and rampant in the world.

	Amillennial	Postmillennial	Futurist	Premillennial
The Kingdom	Spiritual. Came with Jesus' ministry on earth.	Spiritual. Came with Jesus' ministry on earth.	Spiritual. Came with Jesus' ministry on earth.	Literal. Two kingdoms: kingdom of God eternal; kingdom of Heaven is Christ's reign on earth.
Rapture	No. A crazy idea.	No.	Generally, yes.	Of course. Read your Bible.
First Coming	Real and physical.	Real and physical.	Real and physical.	Real and physical.
Second Coming	Once to judge the earth and establish new heavens and new earth	Once to judge the earth and establish new heavens and new earth	Once to judge the earth and establish new heavens and new earth	Twice: comes in clouds to rapture saints and 7+ years later to reign.
Judgments	One judgment (White Throne) at the end.	One judgment (White Throne) at the end.	One judgment (White Throne) at the end.	1. Raptured believers. 2. Sheep and Goat at start of Millennium. 3. White Throne at end of Millennium
History	Origen, later Augustine and embraced by Roman Catholic (Western) church by 400 AD. Mainstream Protestant churches.	Tychonius (AD35) early proponent; revived by Jesuit Luis de Alcazar (1554-1630) to counter Reformation premillennialism.	Jesuit Luis de Alcazar (1554-1630) developed to counter Reformation premillennialism. Refined by Jesuit Cardinal Roberto Bellarmino (1542-1621).	1. Earliest believers 1 <sup>st</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> Centuries). 2. Isolated/persecuted remnants. 3. Reformers (including Reform, Anabaptist, Baptist, etc.



## Bible Translations Referenced

<b>AMP</b>	Amplified Bible	<b>MSG</b>	The Message	<b>NJB</b>	New Jerusalem Bible
<b>CEV</b>	Contemporary English Version	<b>NAB</b>	New American Bible	<b>NKJV</b>	New King James Version
<b>ESV</b>	English Standard Version	<b>NASB</b>	New American Standard Bible	<b>NLT</b>	New Living Translation
<b>GNT</b>	Good News Translation; Good News Bible	<b>NCV</b>	New Century Version	<b>NRSV</b>	New Revised Standard Version
<b>HCSB</b>	Holman Christian Standard Bible	<b>NET</b>	New English translation	<b>RSV</b>	Revised Standard Version
<b>ISV</b>	International Standard Version	<b>NirV</b>	New International Reader's Version	<b>TLB</b>	The Living Bible
<b>KJV</b>	King James Version	<b>NIV</b>	New International Version	<b>TNIV</b>	Today's New International Version

# WHAT THE BIBLE Is ABOUT

## The Throne Room of Heaven

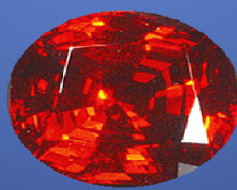
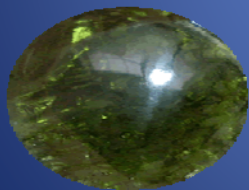
### Revelation Chapters 4-5



## The Throne Room of Heaven

Revelation 4:1-11

1. After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."
2. Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne.
3. And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald.





## The Throne Room of Heaven

4. Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads.
5. And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal.
6. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back.
7. The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle.

## Living Creatures Reflect the Character of Christ

Creature Number	Appearance	Tribe	Characteristics	References
1	Lion	Judah	King or defender	Rev. 5:5
2	Calf (Ox)	Ephraim	Sacrifice	Lev. 4
3	Face of man	Reuben	Substitute or humanity	Phil. 2:5-8 Gen. 4:1
4	Flying eagle	Dan	Sustained	Ex. 19:4

Four faces referenced in Isaiah 6; Ezekiel 1, 10; Gospels; Numbers 2

## God's Design of the Gospels

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Presents as	<b>Messiah</b>	<b>Servant</b>	<b>Son of Man</b>	<b>Son of God</b>
Genealogy	Abraham (Legal line)	-	Adam (Blood line)	Eternal (Pre-existent)
What Jesus	Said	Did	Felt	Was
Written to the	Jew	Roman	Greek	Church
First Miracle	Leper (sin) cleansed	Demon expelled	Demon expelled	Water to Wine
Ends with	Resurrection	Ascension	Promise of Spirit (Acts)	Promise of Return (Revelation)
Camp Side Ensign Face	East Judah <b>Lion</b>	West Ephraim <b>Ox</b>	South Reuben <b>Man</b>	North Dan <b>Eagle</b>

## They worship the Creator

8. The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!"
9. Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever,
10. The twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:
11. *"You are worthy, O Lord,  
To receive glory and honor and power;  
For You created all things,  
And by Your will they exist and were created."*

## New Testament Greek for "Crowns"

English (KJV)	Strong's	Greek Root	Biblical usage
crowns	G4735	στέφανος <i>stephanos</i>	1) A Badge of Victory; like the Latin "corona" is the crown in the sense of a chaplet, wreath or garland for the games, civic worth, military valour, nuptial joy or festive gladness 2) A Crown as a mark of royal or exalted rank a) a wreath or garland given to victors in public games b) Metaphorically: the eternal blessedness which will be given as a prize to the genuine servants of God and Christ: the crown (wreath) which is the reward of the righteousness c) that which is an ornament and honour to one
crowns	G1238	διάδημα <i>diadēma</i>	1) Always a symbol of kingly or imperial dignity; a badge of royalty 2) A diadem: a) a blue band marked with white which Persian kings used to bind on the turban or tiara b) the kingly ornament for the head, the crown

## Crowns Available (in General)

The Badge of Victory	Criteria	Reference	Verses (KJV)
<b>Crown of Life</b>	For those who have suffered for His sake	James 1:12; (also Revelation 2:10)	<i>Blessed the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.</i>
<b>Crown of Righteousness</b>	For those who loved His appearing	2 Timothy 4:8	<i>Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.</i>
<b>Crown of Glory</b>	For those who fed the flock	1 Peter 5:4	<i>And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.</i>
<b>Crown Incorruptible</b>	For those who press on steadfastly	1 Corinthians 9:25	<i>And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.</i>
<b>Crown of Rejoicing</b>	For those who win souls	1 Thessalonians 2:19	<i>For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?</i>

## Reserved Crowns

The Badge of Victory	Criteria	Reference	Verses (KJV)
<b>Crown of Thorns</b> (Jesus Christ)	Blasphemous masquerade of royalty by Roman soldiers made of <i>juncus marinus</i> or <i>lycium spinosum</i>	Mark 15:7 (also Matthew 27:29; John 19:2)	<i>And they clothed him with purple, and platted a crown of thorns, and put it about his head,</i>
<b>A Golden Crown</b> (Jesus Christ)  ( <i>diadēma</i> )	The Son of Man at the time of God's Wrath;  ----- KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS	Revelation 14:14  Revelation 19:12-21	<i>And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.</i>
Crowns of Gold	The 24 Elders	Revelation 4:4	<i>And round about the throne four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.</i>

## Parallels

### Earthly Temple

- Holy of Holies
- Seven-branched candlestick
- Bronze Laver
- Cherubim over the mercy seat
- Priests
- Bronze Altar
- Incense Altar
- Ark of the Covenant

### Heavenly Sanctuary

- Throne of God
- Seven lamps of fire before the Throne
- Sea of glass
- Four living creatures
- Elders (kings and priests)
- Altar (Rev. 6:9-11)
- Incense altar (Rev. 8:3-5)
- Ark of the Covenant (Rev 11:10)